

**Comments on text resulting from the Terrestrial Animal Health Code  
Commission Report – September 2005 Meeting  
Submitted by the United States of America**

Appendix 3.7.2.

Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Sea

**General comments**

Article 3.7.2.10.

**Species specific issues**

The United States of America supports the OIE's acknowledgement of the need for species specific guidelines contained in Article 3.7.2.10. However, the content/information format of the various species specific sections is not consistent. For example, in the section on cattle, a specific personal space requirement of six square meters is referenced but other sections reference "general rules of thumb", e.g. pigs and step height. Our experts recommend that the content of Article 3.7.2.10 be rewritten and formatted consistently for all species within this Article as indicated.

**Specific comments**

Article 3.7.2.3.

**Planning the journey**

**Current proposed text:**

Item 2: Preparation of animals for the journey; Part (a) – When animals are to be provided with a novel diet or unfamiliar methods of supplying of feed or water they should be preconditioned.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 2: Preparation of animals for the journey; Part (a) – When animals are to be provided with a novel diet or unfamiliar methods of supplying of feed or water they should be preconditioned.

**Comment/Rationale:**

The suggested change in the text is to clarify the intent of the guideline for the reader.

**Current proposed text:**

Item 2: Preparation of animals for the journey; Part (d) – Animals more accustomed to contact with humans and with being handled are likely to be less fearful of being loaded and transported. Animals should be handled and loaded in a manner that reduces their fearfulness and improves their approachability.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 2: Preparation of animals for the journey; Part (d) – Animals ~~more~~ accustomed to positive contact with humans and with being properly handled are less likely to be fearful of being loaded and transported. ~~Likely to be less fearful of being loaded and transported.~~ Animals should be handled in a manner that reduces fearfulness and improves their approachability.

**Comment/Rationale:**

The text should be changed to clarify the intent of the guideline to the reader. Animals are not necessarily impacted positively by humans as implied in the proposed guideline. Therefore, the text should be changed to emphasize that animals are less fearful of being handled and transported if they are more accustomed to positive contact with humans.

**Current proposed text:**

Item 3: Control of disease, Part (a) – when possible and agreed by the Veterinary Authority of the importing country, animals should be vaccinated against diseases to which they are likely to be exposed at their destination.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 3: Control of disease, Part (a) – when possible and agreed to by the Veterinary Authority of the importing country, animals should be vaccinated against diseases to which they are likely to be exposed at their destination.

**Comment/Rationale:**

The suggested change in the text is suggested to clarify the intent of the guideline for the reader.

Article 3.7.2.5.

**Pre-journey period****Current proposed text:**

Item 1: General considerations; Part (b), subpart (ii) – For animals such as pigs which are susceptible to motion sickness, and in order to reduce urine and feces production during the journey, a short period of feed deprivation prior to loading is desirable.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 1: General considerations; Part (b), subpart (ii) – For animals such as pigs which are susceptible to motion sickness, and in order to reduce urine and feces production during the journey, a ~~short~~ period of feed deprivation prior to loading is desirable.

**Comment/Rationale:**

Our experts suggest that the reference to a short period of feed deprivation is too vague. The guideline should contain text that addresses classification of animal species, age, etc.

and clarification of what is meant by a “short” period of time. (Will the specifications be included in appendix XXX?)

**Current proposed text:**

Item 1: General considerations; Part (b), subpart (iii) – When animals are to be provided with a novel diet or unfamiliar methods of supplying of feed or water, they should be preconditioned.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 1: General considerations; Part (b), subpart (iii) – When animals are to be provided with a novel diet or unfamiliar methods of supplying of feed or water, they should be preconditioned.

**Comment/Rationale:**

The suggested change in the text is to clarify the intent of the guideline for the reader.

**Current proposed text:**

Item 3: Fitness to travel; Part (a) – Animals should be inspected by a veterinarian or an animal handler to assess fitness to travel. If its fitness to travel is in doubt, the animal should be examined by a veterinarian. Animals found unfit to travel should not be loaded onto a vessel.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 3: Fitness to travel; Part (a) – Animals should be inspected by ~~a veterinarian or~~ an animal handler to assess fitness to travel. If its fitness to travel is in doubt, the animal should be examined by a veterinarian. Animals found unfit should not be loaded onto a vessel.

**Comment/Rationale:**

The intent appears to be that a requirement for veterinary examination to determine an animal’s fitness to travel is the exception rather than a mandate. Therefore the reference to inspection by a veterinarian should be deleted from the guideline. “Each animal should be inspected by ~~a veterinarian~~ an animal handler to assess fitness to travel”.

Article 3.7.2.6.

**Loading**

**Current proposed text:**

Item 2: Facilities, Part (c) – Last sentence: Artificial lightening may be required.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 2: Facilities, Part (c) – Last sentence: Artificial lighting ~~lightening~~ may be required.

**Comment/rationale:**

The suggested change in the text is to clarify the intent of the guideline for the reader.

Article 3.7.2.8

**Unloading and post-journey handling:****Current proposed text:**

Item 2: Facilities, Part (c) – Port facilities should provide animals with appropriate care and comfort, adequate space, access to quality feed and clean drinking water and shelter from extreme weather conditions.

**Suggested proposed text:**

Item 2: Facilities, Part (c) – Port facilities should provide animals with appropriate care and comfort, adequate space, access to quality feed, when appropriate, and clean drinking water and shelter from extreme weather conditions.

**Comment/Rationale:**

The suggested change in the guideline is to acknowledge that access to quality feed should be provided when it is appropriate. For example, animals that are unloaded and immediately enter a slaughter facility may not require access to quality feed.